

# Hidden Gems of Northeastern South Dakota

All photos courtesy of SD State Historic Preservation Office unless otherwise noted.  
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## Drake Octagon House

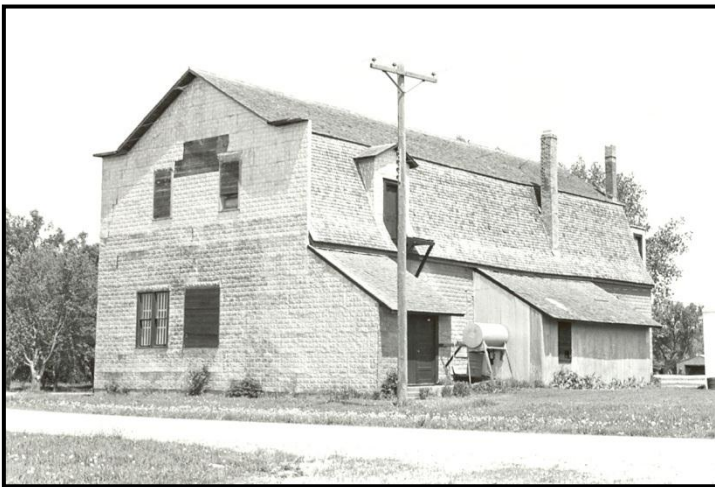
Beadle County  
605 Third Street SW  
Huron

In the mid-1800s Orson Squire Fowler, a theologian, phrenologist, and lecturer, publicly argued that square or rectangular houses were inadequate for “successful domesticity.” He published *A Home for All; or The Gravel and Octagon Mode of Building*. His publication influenced the construction of both high style and more modest eight-sided houses throughout the country in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The trend did not really stick. But, you can see a rare example in Huron. The Hattie O. and Henry Drake Octagon House, constructed c.1893, remains a private residence today. If you meet the owner on the sidewalk, ask about their “successful domesticity.”



## Garden City Opera House



Clark County  
First and Railroad Streets  
Garden City

Is it a storefront? Is it a barn? No, it's an Opera House. In March 1908 the Garden City Hall Association purchased lots and commissioned the construction of a wood-frame two-story building to serve as a town auditorium. Completed in October of that year, it has a gambrel roof, false front, and pressed metal siding. In August 1915 the Association leased the

lower level to local banker E.L. Jacobs who promoted entertainment events there. The City purchased it when the Association dissolved in 1949. Over the years it housed many public activities including traveling medicine shows, auctions, flea markets, roller skating parties, church socials, public dances, and high school basketball games and commencement ceremonies. The upper level has always been shared by area fraternal societies.



## Roslyn Auditorium aka International Vinegar Museum

Day County  
500 Main Street  
Roslyn

Did you know there are 101 uses for vinegar? What does that have to do with a historic City Auditorium? The Roslyn Auditorium was built as a WPA

project in 1936. As was common with this type of property, the auditorium served multiple purposes over the years: a meeting hall, gymnasium, music hall, and senior center. In 1999, Lawrence J. Diggs opened the International Vinegar Museum in the auditorium. You would *not* expect to find an *international* museum in a small South Dakota town. Yet in this historic Auditorium in Roslyn is the world's first and only museum that is dedicated to the wonder that is vinegar. You can see how it is made, who makes it, and learn about its numerous uses, some expected, but many very surprising.

## South Dakota School for the Blind

Deuel County  
1312 Coteau Street  
Gary

In 1894, local publisher Doane Robinson came upon the idea that the state needed a facility to educate its vision impaired children, and he advocated its establishment in Gary. The City constructed and donated to the state a new brick building in return for the state establishing a "school for the blind" in the city. This first structure was completed, dedicated, and opened for enrollment by March 1, 1900. Over time the campus grew to include a large administration building, Boys and Girls dormitories, a physical plant and animal facilities. The school was open until 1961 when it moved to Aberdeen. It became a private elderly care facility for a short time. The buildings on the campus sat vacant from the early 1970s until 2009 when the campus was rehabilitated into the Buffalo Ridge Resort. For more information about this amazing rehab project, you can visit the Resort's website: <http://www.buffaloridgeresort.com/>





# The Pickler Mansion

Faulk County  
9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. and VFW Road  
Faulkton

(photo courtesy of Jody Moritz)

If you venture several blocks south of Faulkton's "main drag" (Hwy 212 or Main St), your jaw will probably hit the floorboard as you come upon an unexpected "Pink Castle." This is the Pickler Mansion. Complete with a three-story tower and rounded two-story bays, it was the home of John A. Pickler, South Dakota's first U.S. Congressman. Pickler served four terms, beginning in 1889. His wife, Alice Alt Pickler, was a noted suffragist. The high status couple hosted guests including Susan B. Anthony, Grover Cleveland, and Theodore Roosevelt. This 20-room mansion was constructed in phases, achieving its current form by 1894. It has been wonderfully



restored, complete with almost all of the original furnishings. It is open for tours Memorial Day through Labor Day. For details, please visit: [http://jm008.k12.sd.us/pickler\\_mansion.htm](http://jm008.k12.sd.us/pickler_mansion.htm)

# Holland Grist Mill (Milbank Grist Mill)

Grant County  
4<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Flynn Drive  
Milbank

(photo courtesy of Jim Peacock)

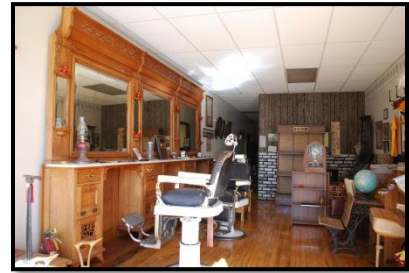


Englishman Henry Hollands built the original "Hollands Grist Mill" in Milbank in 1882. The English-design windmill was used to grind wheat and grain raised on homesteaders' claims into flour for bread and feed for livestock. Its use as an active mill ceased in 1907. Citizens of Milbank were aware of its historic value and wanted the mill preserved. It eventually became property of the City and in 1928, was moved to Main Street where it could easily be seen. Damage from a 1977 windstorm caused the City to ask the Milbank Mutual Insurance Company to assist in its restoration and continued maintenance. As a result, it was moved to Insurance company property near Highway 12. By the late 1990s, the mill was in such poor condition that it had to be replicated with new materials matching the old. The tedious reconstruction, done between 2000 and 2009, is a reminder of pioneer industry and the early historic preservation efforts

of forward-thinking local citizens. Visit: <http://www.milbanksd.com/visitor/attractions.php>

# M.O. Hanson Building aka Castlewood Heritage Museum

Hamlin County  
126 E. Main Street  
Castlewood



Hair cut anyone? The one-story brick M.O. Hanson building was constructed c.1907. It was among the earliest brick buildings on Main Street and



housed Martin O. Hanson's barber shop in one half and a candies and a notions (sewing goods) shop in the other. Hanson, originally from Norway, started his barber business in Castlewood in 1894 at about age 25. Remarkably, the Hansons' striking three-station barbershop back bar, with decorative woodwork, beveled mirrors, and a marble counter top, as well as some early barber chairs, remain in place today. The Castlewood Historical Society purchased the building in 2004 to house the

Castlewood Heritage Museum. For more information contact the Castlewood Historical Society: <http://www.castlewoodcity.com/Organizations.htm>

## St. Liborius Catholic Church

Hand County  
NW corner of Hwy 26 & Co. Rd. 4  
Polo

(photo courtesy of JoAnn Schaefer)



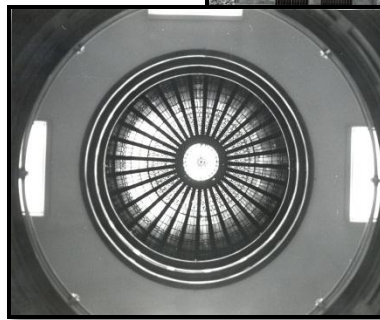
Early settlers arrived in the area around 1881, primarily from Germany. Polo's first church was built in 1904. The parish was named St. Liborius after the patron saint of their home parish in Germany. Father Herman Pothmann, the first resident priest, was influenced by the Mission style during his work in Mexico and the southern states. He chose the style when adding a complex of buildings for a boarding school, which opened in 1923. The school stopped boarding

students in 1959. It eventually became a public district in 1988. Today it is used for Saturday mass in the summer. <http://www.parishesonline.com/scripts/hostedsites/Org.asp?ID=12801>

# Hyde County Courthouse

Hyde County  
412 Commercial SE  
Highmore

The Hyde County Courthouse, built in 1911, is one of the most architecturally impressive structures in Hyde County. It is two stories with a raised basement, fronted by a two-story pedimented portico. The foundation is of sandstone from Burke's quarry in Hot Springs and the main structure is of light gray Indiana limestone. The interior was constructed to feature Ionic pillars, maple wood and ceramic tile floors, railings and a wired art glass dome (not visible from the street). The Hills Company of Deadwood" Neoclassical courthouse and Gray of Watertown received the contract for construction. The cornerstone-laying celebration occurred August 3, 1911, with the courthouse dedication on September 30, 1912.



red oak trim, copper with a copper cover (not architectural firm "Black designed the Construction Company



## Loriks-Peterson Heritage House

Kingbury County  
108 East William Street  
Oldham

The Loriks-Peterson Heritage House, built in 1909, is a grand house museum. Pete Peterson came to Oldham in 1902 and became a noted carpenter

and house builder who devised a way to make cement blocks look like building stone. The mold he used to create these is on display at the house. If you examine the house closely, you'll find that the columns supporting the porch are also cement rather than stone. The Heritage House was one of Peterson's first ventures, built large and stately as an advertisement to the area of his capabilities as a builder. After the death of Peterson's widow, Emil Loriks purchased the house in 1976 and donated it to the Oldham Library and Historical Association for use as a museum. The Loriks-Peterson House is open Sundays, 1:00-4:00PM, Memorial Day through Labor Day or by appointment, 605-482-8640.





## Fort Sisseton

10 miles SW of Lake City  
West on SD Hwy 10, then south on CR 5  
Marshall County

Named after the nearby Sisseton band of the Dakota Indians, this historic fort is now a picturesque state park that unfolds the area's past. Walk the grounds where the officers' quarters, stone barracks, powder magazine, guard house, and other buildings that remain

from time of the western frontier. The history of Fort Sisseton stretches back more than 130 years, when a series of forts were established in eastern Dakota Territory under the direction of Maj. Gen. John Pope. This 1864 fort, atop the Coteau des Prairies (or hills of the prairies), was originally a frontier army outpost called Fort Wadsworth. The site was chosen because it provided a strong natural defense, an ample supply of lime and clay for making bricks, an abundance of lake water for drinking and a thick stand of trees for timber and fuel. While in operation, the soldiers stationed at the fort ensured safe passage for settlers, surveyors and others into the Dakota Territory. In 1959, the fort was designated a State Historical Park. This 1864 frontier army outpost has 14 of the original buildings still intact. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it has been restored and is now open to the public. (Information Courtesy of SD Game, Fish and Parks.) Visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/fort-sisseton/>

## Kary's Tire Service

McPherson County  
NE corner of SD Hwy 10 and 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka

(Photo Courtesy of the Northwest Blade)



It's getting harder and harder to find examples of early filling stations like Kary's Tire Service. Kary's was constructed as a filling station by the 1930s. In 1939, Jacob Kary and John Banek purchased and operated it as a Phillips 66 Station. Jacob Kary sold gasoline, oil, and small car parts as well as used vehicles. In 1945 Jacob sold the filling station to his brother, Reinhold Kary. Reinhold put an addition on the north side of the original building, where he sold kerosene- and gasoline-powered appliances. He worked long hours at the service station and his associated bulk plant. He and his family lived in the back (east end) of the service station for almost 20 years before moving to a house across the street in 1966. Reinhold's sons continue the family business to this day.

# Chicago & Northwestern Depot

Spink County  
Intersection U.S. Highways 212 and 281  
Redfield

Waiting for the train in the early 1900s wasn't like waiting around in an airport today. One big difference is that the men & women usually had separate waiting rooms. The Chicago & Northwestern Depot in Redfield was built in 1914. (C&NW constructed their first Redfield depot in 1891). Charles Frost of Frost and Granger architects, Chicago, designed the luxurious depot for C&NW. The western portion of the building contained a women's waiting room with a "matron" on duty and a separate men's waiting room. The central transept contained the entrance hall and the agent's office. This office had ticket windows facing the entrance and, on the opposite side, a bay window facilitating the view along the tracks. East of the entrance hall was the dining room, the kitchen, telegraph office, and freight office. In 2002, the City of Redfield received a Federal matching grant and began restoring the depot to its original grandeur. It is now open April 1 –Nov., Thurs.-Sun., 1:00-5:00PM or by appointment. Visit: <http://www.redfield-sd.com/depot.html>

